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ABSTRACT

A directory of languages spoken by limited English proficient public school students in New York State, developed as a resource for school districts providing services to pupils with native languages other than English, includes languages whose world wide speakers number over 250,000 and/or those reported by New York State school districts. The directory consists of two lists: one alphabetizes the 160 languages spoken by students and identifies the corresponding countries in which the languages are spoken, and the other contains 130 nation names and the languages spoken in them. (MSE)

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Directory of Languages

Spoken by Students of
Limited English Proficiency
in New York State Programs

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**DIRECTORY OF LANGUAGES
Spoken by Students of
Limited English Proficiency
in New York State Programs**

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FOREWORD

This publication has been developed as a resource guide for school districts that provide services to pupils whose native language is other than English. It is intended to assist districts in identifying the languages spoken by some limited English proficient students in New York State.* It is not an all-inclusive inventory of the nations and/or linguistic systems of the world.

Two lists of languages and countries are provided. List A, which begins on page 1, alphabetizes the languages that are spoken by students of limited English proficiency in New York State school districts, and identifies the corresponding countries where those languages are spoken. List B, which begins on page 10, is alphabetized by nation, and indicates the major languages spoken in each.

In some cases, districts misidentified a nationality as a language. For example, the term "Indian," which is not a language, was identified as such, hence, we researched the linguistic composition of India and recorded the 15 official languages and those that are most widely spoken.

We hope that this publication will render itself useful and offer a documented profile of the ever-increasing multi-ethnicity of our State.

* Because of the thousands of tribal languages and dialects that are spoken in the world, only those whose speakers number over 250,000 and/or those that were reported by New York State school districts have been included in this guide.

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The research for the Directory of Languages Spoken by Students of Limited English Proficiency in New York State Programs was conducted by Elizabeth M. Fernández, Associate, Bureau of Bilingual Education. Ivelisse Ramat, Assistant, compiled a list of languages identified by New York State school districts. The Directory was coordinated and developed by Elizabeth M. Fernández with the assistance of Marta Cruz, Supervisor; Laurie Wellman, Associate, prepared the Directory for publication.

LIST A
ALPHABETIZED BY LANGUAGE

**LIST A
ALPHABETIZED BY LANGUAGE**

| LANGUAGE | COUNTRY(IES) |
|-------------------------|---|
| Adangme | Ghana |
| Afrikaans | South Africa |
| Akan | Ghana |
| Albanian | Albania |
| Amharic | Ethiopia |
| Amoy (a.k.a. Fukienese) | Taiwan |
| Arabic | An official language of: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Southern Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, |
| Araucanian | Chile |
| Arawak | Guyana |
| Armenian | U.S.S.R. |
| Assamese | India |
| Aymara | Bolivia, Peru |
| Azerbaijani | Iran, U.S.S.R. |
| Balante | Guinea-Bissau |
| Baluchi | Iran, Pakistan |
| Bambara | Mali |
| Basque | Spoken by the Basque people in Spain and France. |
| Belorussian | Belorussian republic of the Soviet Union |
| Bemba | Zambia |
| Bengali | Bangladesh, India |
| Bhili | India |

| LANGUAGE | COUNTRY(IES) |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Bihari | India |
| Brahui | Pakistan |
| Breton | France |
| Bulgarian | Bulgaria |
| Burmese | Burma |
| Catalan | The vast majority of Catalan speakers live in Spain while a small minority live in France. |
| Cham | Cambodia |
| Chinese | China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand. |
| Czech | Czechoslovakia |
| Dari* | Afghanistan |
| Dagomba (a.k.a. Dagbane) | Ghana |
| Danish | Denmark |
| Dejula | Upper Volta |
| Dutch | Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles |
| Ewe | Ghana, Togo |
| Fanti | Ghana |
| Farsi* | Iran |
| Finnish | Finland |
| Flemish | Belgium |
| French | France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, Haiti, and French dependencies. It is also spoken in many African and Asian nations. |

* The Persian language is called Farsi, in Iran, and Dari, in Afghanistan.

| LANGUAGE | COUNTRY(IES) |
|----------------------------|--|
| Fukienese (a.k.a. Amoy) | Taiwan |
| Fon | Dahomey |
| Fulani | Nigeria, Upper Volta, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Gambia, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Cameroon. |
| Ga | Ghana |
| Galician | Spain |
| Galla | Ethiopia, Kenya |
| Georgian | U.S.S.R. |
| German | Federal Republic of Germany, German Demo- cratic Republic. Austria, Switzerland. |
| Greek | Greece, Cyprus |
| Guarani | Paraguay |
| Gujarati | India |
| Gurma | Ghana, Togo, Upper Volta |
| Haitian Creole | Haiti |
| Hausa | Nigeria, Niger, Ghana, Cameroon, Togo, Dahomey. |
| Hebrew | Israel |
| Hindi | India |
| Hungarian | Hungary |
| Ibo | Nigeria |
| Icelandic | Iceland |
| Ilocano | Philippines |
| Indonesian | Indonesia |
| Italian | Italy, Switzerland |
| Japanese | Japan |
| Jonkhan | Bhutan |

| LANGUAGE | COUNTRY (IES) |
|------------------------------|--|
| Kabre | Togo |
| Kabyle | Algeria |
| Kafiri | India, Kashmir |
| Kamba | Kenya |
| Kanarese (a.k.a. Kannada) | India |
| Kanuri | Nigeria |
| Karen | Burma |
| Kashmiri | Kashmir, India |
| Khmer | Cambodia (now known as Kampuchea) |
| Khowan | India, Kashmir |
| Kibuvu | Kenya |
| Korean | Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea. |
| Kpelle | Liberia |
| Kurdish | Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, U.S.S.R. |
| Lao | Laos |
| Latvian | U.S.S.R. |
| Lithuanian | U.S.S.R. |
| Luba | Zaire |
| Luo | Kenya |
| Macedonian | Yugoslavia |
| Malagasy | Malagasy Republic |
| Malay | Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore |
| Malayalam | India |
| Malinke | Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Gambia. |
| Maltese | Malta |

| LANGUAGE | COUNTRY(IES) |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Marathi | India |
| Mohawk | United States |
| Moldavian | U.S.S.R. |
| Mossi (a.k.a. More) | Upper Volta |
| Nahuatl | Mexico |
| Nepali | Nepal, India, Bhutan, Sikkim |
| Norwegian | Norway |
| Nyanja (a.k.a. Chinyanja) | Zambia |
| Oneida | United States |
| Oriya | India |
| Ossetian | U.S.S.R. |
| Papiamentu | Netherlands Antilles |
| Pashto (a.k.a. Pushto) | Afghanistan, Pakistan |
| Persian* | Iran, Afghanistan |
| Pilipino (a.k.a. Tagalog) | Philippines |
| Polish | Poland |
| Portuguese | Brazil, Portugal, Guinea-Bissau |
| Provençal | France |
| Punjabi (a.k.a. Panjabi) | Pakistan, India |
| Quechua | Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador |

* The Persian language is called Farsi, in Iran, and Dari, in Afghanistan.

| LANGUAGE | COUNTRY(IES) |
|------------------|--|
| Quiche | Guatemala |
| Rajasthani | India |
| Romanian | Romania |
| Romansch | Switzerland |
| Rundi | Burundi |
| Russian | U.S.S.R. |
| Rwanda | Rwanda |
| Samoan | Samoa |
| Sanskrit | India - Literary and classical language spoken by scholars. |
| Scottish Gaelic* | Scotland |
| Seneca | United States |
| Serbo-Croatian | Yugoslavia |
| Sei | Mexico |
| Shan | Burma |
| Shina | India, Kashmir |
| Shluh | Morocco |
| Sidamo | Ethiopia |
| Sindhi | India, Pakistan |
| Sinhalese | Sri Lanka |
| Slovak | Czechoslovakia |
| Slovenian | Yugoslavia |
| Somali | Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya |
| South Arabic | Southern Yemen - Refers to a collective term for a number of Arabic dialects spoken in Southern Yemen. |

*Spoken by less than 1% of the population.

| LANGUAGE | COUNTRY(IES) |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Spanish | An official language of: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, Venezuela. |
| Sukuma | Tanzania |
| Sundanese | Indonesia |
| Swahili (a.k.a. Kiswahili) | Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire. |
| Swazi | Swaziland |
| Swedish | Sweden |
| Tadzhik | U.S.S.R. |
| Tamazight | Morocco |
| Tamil | Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore |
| Telugu | India |
| Thai | Thailand |
| Tibetan | Tibet Autonomous Region of China |
| Tigre | Ethiopia |
| Tigrinya | Ethiopia |
| Tonga | Zambia |
| Tuareg | Upper Volta |
| Turkish | Turkey, Cyprus |
| Turkmen (a.k.a. Turkoman) | Afghanistan, U.S.S.R. |
| Twi | Ghana |
| Ukrainian | Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, U.S.S.R. |
| Urdu | Pakistan, India |

| LANGUAGE | COUNTRY(IES) |
|------------|---|
| Uzbek | U.S.S.R., Afghanistan |
| Vietnamese | Vietnam |
| Wolof | Senegal |
| Yiddish | Spoken by Jews primarily in Eastern Europe, including the U.S.S.R., and in countries to which Jews from Eastern Europe have migrated. |
| Yonba | Nigeria |
| Yoruba | Nigeria, Dahomey |

LIST B
ALPHABETIZED BY COUNTRY

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LIST B
ALPHABETIZED BY COUNTRY

| COUNTRY | LANGUAGE(S) |
|--|---|
| Afghanistan | Dari* and Pashto (Pushto) are the official languages. There are also about 1 million speakers of Uzbek and 1/2 million speakers of Turkmen(Turkoman). |
| Albania | Albanian |
| Algeria | Arabic. Among Berber languages, Kayble is predominant. |
| Argentina | Spanish |
| Austria | German |
| Bahrain | Arabic |
| Bangladesh | Bengali is predominant. |
| Belgium | Flemish and French are the official languages. |
| Belorussian republic of the Soviet Union | Belorussian |
| Bhutan | Jonkhan is the official language. Nepali is also spoken. |
| Bolivia | The official language is Spanish which is spoken by less than 40%. The predominant Indian languages are Quechua and Aymara. |
| Brazil | Portuguese |
| Bulgaria | Bulgarian |
| Burma | Burmese is the official language. Two predominant languages are Karen and Shan. |
| Burundi | Rundi and French are the official languages. Swahili (Kiswahili) serves as a commercial language. |

*The Persian language is called Farsi, in Iran, and Dari, in Afghanistan.

| COUNTRY | LANGUAGE(S) |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Cambodia (now known as Kampuchea) | Khmer is the official language. French is also spoken. Cham is the predominant tribal language. |
| Cameroon | French and English are the official languages. There are over 100 native languages, of which Fulani and Hausa are predominant. |
| Canada | English and French are the official languages. |
| Chile | Spanish. Araucanian is the predominant Indian language spoken. |
| China | Chinese |
| Colombia | Spanish |
| Costa Rica | Spanish |
| Cuba | Spanish |
| Cyprus | Greek, Turkish |
| Czechoslovakia | Czech and Slovak are the official languages. |
| Dahomey | French is the official language. Fon is the predominant native language. Hausa and Yoruba are also spoken. |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Korean |
| Denmark | Danish |
| Dominican Republic | Spanish |
| Ecuador | Spanish. Quechua is the predominant Indian language. |
| Egypt | Arabic |
| El Salvador | Spanish |
| Ethiopia | Amharic is the official language. Other predominant languages include: Galla, Sidamo, Somali, Tigrinya, and Tigre. |
| Finland | Finnish |

| COUNTRY | LANGUAGE(S) |
|------------------------------|--|
| France | French is the official language. Provençal, Breton, Basque, and Catalan are spoken regionally. |
| Gambia | English is the official language. Fulani and Malinke are also spoken. |
| German Democratic Republic | German |
| Germany, Federal Republic of | German |
| Ghana | English is the official language. Other predominant languages include: Akan, of which Twi and Fanti are the major dialects, Ewe, Ga, Adangme, Gurma, Dagomba (Dagbane), and Hausa. |
| Greece | Greek |
| Guatemala | Spanish. Fifty percent of the population speaks different Mayan languages of which Quiche is predominant. |
| Guinea | French is the official language. Fulani and Malinke are also spoken. |
| Guinea-Bissau | Portuguese is the official language. Fulani, Balante, and Malinke are also spoken. |
| Guyana | English is predominant; Arawak is spoken by a small minority. |
| Haiti | French and Haitian Creole are the official languages. |
| Honduras | Spanish |
| Hong Kong | English is the official language. Chinese is spoken by the majority. |
| Hungary | Hungarian |
| Iceland | Icelandic |
| India | India is the most linguistically varied country in the world, with hundreds of |

COUNTRY

LANGUAGE(S)

languages spoken. Hindi¹ is the predominant language. Along with English it is official. Other predominant languages are:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Assamese ¹ | Kashmiri ¹ | Rajasthani |
| Bengali ¹ | Malayalam ¹ | Sanskrit |
| Bhili | Marathi ¹ | Sindhi ¹ |
| Bihari ¹ | Nepali ¹ | Tamil ¹ |
| Gujarati ¹ | Oriya ¹ | Telugu ¹ |
| Kanarese ^{1,2} | Punjabi ³ | Urdu ¹ |

Kafiri, Shina, and Khowan are spoken by Dards in India.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Indonesia | Indonesian, Sundanese |
| Iran | Farsi(Persian) ⁴ is the official language. Azerbaijani and Baluchi are also spoken. Kurdish is spoken by the Kurds. |
| Iraq | Arabic is the official language. Kurdish is also spoken by the Kurds. |
| Israel | Hebrew and Arabic are the official languages. |
| Italy | Italian |
| Jamaica | English |
| Japan | Japanese |
| Jordan | Arabic |
| Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia) | Khmer is the official language. French is also spoken. Cham is the predominant tribal language. |
| Kashmir | Kashmiri is the official language. Kafiri, Shina, and Khowan are spoken by Dards. |
| Kenya | Swahili(Kiswahili) is the official language. Other predominant languages include: Kibuyu, Kamba, Luo, Galla, and Somali. |

¹One of the 15 constitutionally recognized languages.

²a.k.a. Kannada.

³a.k.a. Panjabi

⁴The Persian language is called Farsi, in Iran, and Dari, in Afghanistan.

| COUNTRY | LANGUAGE(S) |
|----------------------|---|
| Kuwait | Arabic |
| Laos | Lao |
| Lebanon | Arabic |
| Liberia | English is the official language. Kpelle is the most widely spoken native language. |
| Libya | Arabic |
| Luxembourg | French |
| Malagasy Republic | Malagasy and French are the official languages. |
| Malaysia | Malay. Tamil is also spoken. |
| Mali | French is the official language. Bambara and Fulani are the most predominant native languages. |
| Malta | Maltese |
| Mauritania | French is the official language. Fulani is also spoken. |
| Mexico | Spanish. Among the various Indian languages, Nahuatl is predominant. |
| Morocco | Arabic. Among Berber languages, Shulh and Tamazight are predominant. |
| Nepal | Nepali |
| Netherlands | Dutch |
| Netherlands Antilles | Dutch is the official language but Papiamentu is widely spoken in the southern islands (Curaçao, Aruba, and Bonaire). |
| Nicaragua | Spanish |
| Niger | French is the official language. Hausa and Fulani are predominant native languages. |

| COUNTRY | LANGUAGE(S) |
|-------------------|--|
| Nigeria | English is the official language. The most predominant native language is Hausa. Yoruba, Ibo, Kanuri, Yonba, and Fulani are also spoken. |
| Norway | Norwegian |
| Oman | Arabic |
| Pakistan | Urdu is the official language. Punjabi, (Panjabi), Sindhi, Pashto, (Pushto), Baluchi, and Brahui are also spoken. |
| Panama | Spanish |
| Paraguay | Spanish and Guarani are official languages. |
| Peru | Spanish. Quechua is the predominant Indian language. Aymara is also spoken. |
| Philippines | Pilipino(Tagalog) and English are the official languages. Among the 82 dialects spoken, Ilocano is predominant. |
| Poland | Polish |
| Portugal | Portuguese |
| Puerto Rico | Spanish is the official language. |
| Qatar | Arabic |
| Republic of Korea | Korean |
| Romania | Romanian |
| Rwanda | Rwanda and French are Official languages. Swahili(Kiswahili) is also spoken. |
| Samoa | Samoaan |
| Saudi Arabia | Arabic |
| Scotland | Scottish-Gaelic, English |
| Senegal | French is the official language. Wolof, Fulani, and Malinke are predominant native languages. |

| COUNTRY | LANGUAGE(S) |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Sikkim | Nepali |
| Singapore | Malay is the national language but Chinese, an official language along with Tamil and English, is spoken by about 75% of the population. |
| Somalia | Somali |
| South Africa | Afrikaans and English are official languages. |
| Southern Yemen | Arabic is the official language. South Arabic, a term used to denote various related dialects, is also spoken. |
| Spain | Spanish, as well as Catalan, Galician, and Basque. |
| Sri Lanka | Sinhalese is the official language. Tamil is also spoken. |
| Sudan | Arabic |
| Swaziland | Swazi and English are official languages. |
| Sweden | Swedish |
| Switzerland | French, German, Italian, and Romansch are the four official languages. |
| Syria | Arabic. Kurdish is spoken by the Kurds. |
| Taiwan | Chinese (Mandarin dialect) is the official language, but native Taiwanese speak Fukienese or Amoy dialect. |
| Tanzania | Swahili (Kiswahili) and English are official languages. Over 100 tribal languages are spoken, of which Sukuma is predominant. |
| Thailand | Thai. Chinese and Malay are also spoken. |
| Tibet Autonomous Region of China | Tibetan |
| Togo | French is the official language. Ewe is the predominant native language followed by Kabre, Gurma, and Hausa. |
| Tunisia | Arabic |

| COUNTRY | LANGUAGE(S) |
|--|--|
| Turkey | Turkish . Kurdish is spoken by Kurds. |
| Uganda | Swahili(Kiswahili) |
| Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic | Ukrainian |
| United Arab Emirates | Arabic |
| United States | New York State Indian languages include: Seneca, Mohawk, and Oneida.* |
| U.S.S.R. | Russian. Other predominant languages include: Lithuanian, Latvian, Armenian, Uzbek, Moldavian, Tadzhik, Georgian, Ossetian, Ukrainian, Azerbaijani, Yiddish, Turkmen(Turkoman),and Belorussian. Kurdish is spoken by Kurds. |
| Upper Volta | French is the official language. Mossi (More) is the predominant native language. Gurma, Fulani, Dejala,and Tuareg are also spoken. |
| Uruguay | Spanish |
| Venezuela | Spanish |
| Vietnam | Vietnamese |
| Yemen | Arabic |
| Yugoslavia | Serbo-Croatian, Slovenian,and Macedonian are the official languages. |
| Zaire | French is the official language. Predominant native languages are Swahili (Kiswahili) and Luba. |
| Zambia | English is the official language. Bemba is the predominant native language followed by Tonga and Nyanja (Chinyanja). |

*These languages are listed because they were reported by school districts. In addition, Indian languages indigenous to, and still spoken in New York State are: Cayuga, Onondaga, and Tuscarora.

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